



Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Global AIDS Program (GAP)

Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

About Our Work: Prevention and Care of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Targeted STI interventions help reduce HIV transmis- sion

To be effective, sexually transmitted infection (STI) activities must target those populations most at-risk for infection. These populations often have the highest prevalence of STI and HIV and therefore, the greatest need for care and treatment.

In Tanzania, improving STI case management through adoption of a syndromic treatment approach resulted in a 42% reduction in HIV transmission.

A strong link exists between sexually transmitted infections (STI) and the sexual transmission of HIV infection. Many studies provide compelling evidence that STI is a co-factor for HIV transmission.

An untreated STI can increase the risk for both the acquisition and transmission of HIV by up to tenfold. This suggests that STI control may potentially play an important role in the reduction of HIV transmission, especially since the predominant mode of transmission of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa is sexual.

Clinical services offering STI care also provide an important entry point for people at high risk for HIV, not only for diagnosis and treatment but also for information and education.

A comprehensive "public health package" for STI prevention and care should include the following components:

- ◆ STI case management (diagnosis, treatment, risk reduction counseling) for most at-risk populations, including HIV positive persons;
- ◆ integration of voluntary HIV counseling and testing services into routine STI clinical management;
- ◆ reinforcement of existing STI clinical services to become "active" entry points for HIV treatment and care;
- ◆ surveillance of STIs in different population groups as the basis for intervention planning and as an evaluation tool for HIV prevention interventions.

With U.S. government funding, the Global AIDS Program (GAP) has supported the following STI prevention and care activities in several GAP countries, including Botswana, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Guyana:

- ◆ development of syndromic case management treatment guidelines, an approach that identifies a consistent group of symptoms and recommends treatment guidelines targeted to the infections most likely to cause those symptoms;
- ◆ development of training materials for health workers and clients;
- ◆ training in syndromic case management, including partner services, for trainers and front-line health workers;
- ◆ monitoring systems for program evaluation and supervision
- ◆ development of STI laboratory services;
- ◆ evaluation of the effectiveness, acceptability, and coverage of quality STI care.

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